

East Main Street: Neighborhood Meeting for Input on Needs and Opportunities

Durham Targeted Commercial Areas Streetscape Project

The following comments were received and recorded during the East Main Street neighborhood meeting held on April 8, 2008, for the Durham Targeted Commercial Areas Streetscape Project. The meeting was held in the Refiners Fire Community Church located at 1003 East Main Street. Participants were asked to share their ideas regarding the types of streetscape improvements and enhancements they would like to see implemented in the East Main Street area by responding to the following question:

“If I could improve the East Main Street area, I would ...”

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve and expand existing local businesses.• Reject NCDOT plans to widen Alston Avenue.• Improve sidewalk connections to the adjacent neighborhoods.• Improve pedestrian comfort and safety at Fayetteville Street and Alston Avenue intersections.• Extend “walk” time at the Fayetteville Street and Alston Avenue intersections• Install new ramps at the Fayetteville Street and Alston Avenue intersections.• Install new crosswalks using decorative brick pavers at all street crossings.• Improve maintenance of sidewalks and buildings.• Encourage reinvestment in local businesses.• Install more trees and landscaping.• Create more green-space.• Make the sidewalks safe for all ages.• Support the local businesses.• Install more businesses of the type we need.• Provide more parking for businesses.• Install better street lighting.• Make the best possible first-impression so that visitors will feel welcome and businesses will choose to locate here. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attract more locally owned businesses.• Make the area safe and attractive.• Open more businesses that serve the neighborhood.• Remove overhead wires.• Adjust traffic signals at Fayetteville and Alston so that pedestrians have more time to cross the street.• Install more seating and gathering areas.• Make the sidewalks wider.• Renovate and expand existing businesses.• Improve storefronts and business signs.• Provide funding for business improvements.• Install attractive fencing and gates at parking areas.• Improve and maintain the area to high level of quality.• Make the area welcoming and walkable for all ages.• Attract more community-oriented businesses.• Provide financial assistance to local businesses.• Make the area family-friendly.• Install more trees.• Remove overhead wires.• Improve the overall appearance of the street.• Install decorative-style streetlights.• Install lots of landscaping and green-space.• Preserve and enhance existing local businesses. |
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- Make the area safe, comfortable and walkable for all ages.
 - Make the area beautiful.
 - Install markers and memorials that tell the history of the neighborhood (Golden Belt and Hosiery Mill).
 - Create more gathering areas.
 - Install public art by local artists.
 - Improve the storefronts and business signs.
 - Improve the street lighting.
 - Install decorative historic-style street lights.
 - Improve the design of business signs (see Piedmont).
 - Create a gateway identity for the area.
 - Install Wi-Fi sites.
 - Establish a strong positive image for the area.
 - Make street crossings safer.
 - Improve sidewalk connections to the neighborhood.
 - Make the area people-friendly.
 - Make East Main Street a neighborhood place.
 - Provide opportunities for art and sculpture.
 - Include design elements that tell the history of the area (Golden Belt and Hosiery Mill).
 - Make the area more attractive and welcoming.
 - Make the streets and buildings look better.
 - Repair the broken sidewalks.
 - Strengthen business connections to the surrounding neighborhoods.
 - Celebrate the neighborhood's music heritage (jazz).
 - Slow the traffic on East Main Street (no speed-bumps).
 - Install brick crosswalks.
 - Reject the NCDOT plan for widening Alston Avenue.
- Resolve plans for Alston Avenue (do not widen) so that Los Primos Supermarket can proceed with planned building and parking area improvements.

